



UAV Tribune

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• www.uavets.org



Ihor W. Hron UAV NC

Dear Fellow Veterans:

Warm greetings and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2016 to all of you and your families. I hope that the Christmas season brought only the best for you.

Historically, the holiday season is a time for giving thanks for our blessings; it is a time to reflect on the year's activities, to measure our successes, and to

assess what needs improvement. For the UAV, the end of 2015 was no different. We looked back on many successes and identified areas for improvement.

Looking back at 2015, there were many noteworthy accomplishments:

ONE

The first major undertaking was the October 3, 2015, Unveiling, Dedication and Blessing of the long-awaited UAV National Monument, which was erected at St. Andrew Cemetery, in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, on land donated by the UOC of USA. We are very grateful to Metropolitan Antony for allotting this plot of land and are also grateful that a project envisioned long ago has finally come to fruition. After more than a decade of planning, which included a monument design competition, time spent selecting the appropriate granite, contract negotiations, brochure design and printing, and continuous solicitation for donations, our vision was finally realized! We thank all our benefactors who made this possible.

The success of this endeavor does not take away the sorrow we felt when losing friends and colleagues along the way. Over the course of the 10 years of the existence of the UAV National Monument Committee, we bid a final farewell to some committee members. We were saddened to lose them but were fortunate to find willing and dedicated volunteers who picked up where they left off and helped us bring the project to a successful conclusion.

I want to recognize Mathew Koziak, PNC, and Anna Krawczuk, PNC, for their inspirational dedication and service to the National Monument Committee. Matt and Anna did the "heavy lifting" on this project; without their commitment, we would still be waiting for the UAV monument to be completed.

We all owe them our gratitude! I also thank all other UAV National Monument Committee members for their service—each of you contributed to the success of this great undertaking.

TWO

Our second successful undertaking was the 68th UAV Annual National Convention. This was a very special convention in many ways. The planning and coordination began in 2014. The UAV National Executive Board and the New Jersey Posts collaborated not only on planning and coordinating the actual convention, but also on conducting the Monument dedication ceremony headed by IPNC Leonid Kondratiuk, who was also the MC at the banquet. Great job!

If ever there was a "case study" on effective cooperation and coordination, the UAV National Convention would surely stand at the forefront, serving as a template for all similar endeavors. All who attended and participated in this convention witnessed the extraordinary success arising from the combined efforts of the UAV National Executive Board, UAV National Monument Committee, and the UAV New Jersey Department of State. Even the weather cooperated!

The business side of the convention was crisp and professional. We had the largest number of delegates and attendees in recent history. The celebratory banquet was elegant and well attended, and the performance of the Ukrainian



- photo by Bishop Daniel.

Continued from page 1

American Youth Association (SUM) Chicago choir brought a great deal of joy and pleasure to all. UAV Post 32 Commander Peter Bencak and his staff were instrumental in bringing the all-volunteer choir from Chicago to New Jersey for our convention. Special thanks to Peter and all the members of UAV Post 32 and to the Chicago Ukrainian American community for their personal and financial support, which made it possible for the choir to attend and perform at both the UAV National Monument dedication and at our convention.

As customary, the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, under the leadership of Oksana Koziak, manned the registration table during the convention, making a generous donation to the UAV National Monument. Ladies, your pleasant demeanor, spirit, and professionalism made all our jobs easier. We know we can always count on you, and we are very grateful for that.

THREE

The third major successful undertaking of the UAV during 2015 was our official presence at and participation in the Holodomor Monument Dedication in Washington, D.C., on November 7, 2015. The UAV Color Guard included: National Commander, Post 42 members: PNC Mathew Koziak, Jerry Kindrachuk, NFO, PC Oleh Balaziuk, IPPC Viktor Litkewycz, and UAV NJ State Commander Michael Hrycak.

FOUR

Last but not least, I must mention that the UAV Color Guard (UAV Post 42 members Jerry Kindrachuk and Viktor Litkewycz) participated in the Veterans' Day Parade of Colors ceremony. They marched and saluted proudly with representatives of other American veterans organizations at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 2015.

It was, as this report suggests, an extremely busy year for the UAV, and our work and our members have been validated by our activities and our visibility. One result of this is that our organization is being recognized more and more as a vital part of the Ukrainian American community. This is a good thing, but we cannot become complacent and rest on our laurels. We need to keep the momentum of 2015 going and this means recruiting new members as well as continuing to volunteer to take part in local activities and events!

IN MEMORIAM

I ask that you keep in your prayers UAV Past National Commander (1949–1950) Walter Shipka who passed on June 28, 2015, and Paul John Hlynsky, UAV NEB VC (2006–2008) and long-time UAV Post 28 Commander, who passed on September 23, 2015, and UAV Past National Commander Joseph Brega (1984-1986) who left us on January 16, 2016.

I end with a reminder to each Post Commander that the viability of each post is contingent on good planning and execution. The goal is to have a formal meeting of Post members at least once every two months. The meeting should have an agenda that addresses annual goals, budgets, and related matters. On a more global level, we need to focus on keeping the UAV strong. On a personal level, each member has an implicit responsibility to represent the UAV in the most professional manner possible. In connection with this, I leave you with a thought for the New Year:

Sometimes the ones who work the hardest and give the most are the quietest about what they've done.....That's called **HONOR!** They inspire the rest of us. That's called **PRIDE!**

Thanks to all you are and all you do!

God Bless America!

God Protect Ukraine!

Ihor Hron,
National Commander

UAV 68TH CONVENTION DELEGATES



Seated L/R: NC Ihor W. Hron, Marian Bojsiuk, Anna Krawczuk, Roman Rakowsky and Michael Fedirko, WWII veteran.



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William Szozda, UAV NVC
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photo by: Ihor B. Rudko



Seated L/R: Marian Bojsiuk, Bernard W. Krawczuk, NC Ihor W. Hron, William Szozda, Anna Krawczuk and Roman Rondiak

Standing L/R: Joe Nasevich, Stephen Kostecki, Mathew Koziak, Jerry Kindrachuk, Br G Leonid Kondratiuk, Nicholas Skirka and Edward A. Zetick. (not on photo: Myroslaw Pryjma).



L/R: State Commanders: Jerry B. Rudko, Michael P. Hrycak, Peter Polnyj and NC Ihor W. Hron



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS, INC



PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS HONOR ROLL

Honorary Commander Michael Darmopray — 1948, PA Post 1

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| Michael Hynda — 1948-1949 | NJ Post 6 | Vasyl Luchkiw — 1974-1976 | NY Post 19 |
| Walter Shipka — 1949-1950 | NY Post 7 | Harry Polche — 1976-1978 | NY Post 7 |
| Walter T. Darmopray — 1950-1952 | PA Post 1 | Bohdan B. Bezkorowajny — 1978-1980 | NY Post 7 |
| Martin Horobiowski — 1952-1953 | PA Post 4 | Michael Chaika — 1980-1982 | CT Post 15 |
| Walter T. Darmopray — 1953-1954 | PA Post 1 | Edward A. Zetick — 1982-1984 | PA Post 4 |
| Alexander Pronchick — 1954-1956 | PA Post 1 | Joseph Brega — 1984-1986 | NY Post 19 |
| Walter Bacad — 1956-1957 | NY Post 7 | Atanas T. Kobryn — 1986-1988 | NY Post 7 |
| Emil Senkow — 1957-1959 | PA Post 4 | Jaroslav Fedoryczuk — 1988-1989 | PA Post 18 |
| George Wolynetz, Jr — 1959-1960 | NY Post 7 | Dmytro Bykovetz, Jr. — 1989-1991 | PA Post 4 |
| Anthony Kutcher — 1960-1961 | CT Post 14 | Roman Rakowsky — 1991-1993 | OH Post 24 |
| Matthew J. Pope — 1961-1963 | NY Post 7 | Miroslaus Malaniak — 1993-1995 | NY Post 23 |
| Stephen Shegda — 1963-1965 | PA Post 4 | Dmytro Bodnarczuk — 1995-1997 | NY Post 19 |
| Walter Klawnsnick — 1965-1966 | NY Post 7 | Steven Szewczuk — 1997-2000 | NY Post 27 |
| Eugene Sagasz — 1966-1968 | NJ Post 17 | Mathew Koziak — 2000-2004 | NY Post 27 |
| William M. Dubetz — 1968-1970 | NY Post 7 | Anna Osinska Krawczuk — 2004-2008 | NJ Post 30 |
| Michael Wengryn — 1970-1972 | NJ Post 17 | Leonid E. Kondratiuk — 2008-2012 | MA Post 31 |
| William Harrison — 1972-1973 | NY Post 19 | Ihor W. Hron — 2012 | FL Post 40 |
| Emrick Prestash — 1973-1974 | CT Post 15 | | |

A REPORT FROM THE FRONT IN UKRAINE

By Ihor Shust, UAV Post 1, Greater Philadelphia, PA.

Many of us follow news from Ukraine and are fully aware of the deplorable situation in the country’s eastern provinces, especially in Luhansk and Donetsk. But some of the details can be related only by those who have been there.

This report is based on a conversation with my Ukrainian relative, a middle-aged woman I’ll call Sonia, who is a physician specializing in urology, who has volunteered to serve on the Eastern front, and who has already been there on two or three assignments. I managed to reach Sonia on her cell phone one day, just as she was walking from one task to another in the military hospital where she was working, and she had enough time to relate to me some of the realities of the situation on the frontlines.

The military hospital is housed in tents, close enough to the fighting so that those working there can hear the artillery fire and explosions but far enough to allow them to safely render medical aid to the wounded. According to Sonia, the casualties are sometimes very serious, supplies are limited, and medical personnel have to rely on local volunteers for assistance. The local people are very cooperative; they bring food and whatever supplies they can muster and often perform functions usually assigned to trained nursing assistants. Sonia explains that providing medical services on the front means working in less than ideal conditions and poses many challenges.

Another challenge is dealing with “the enemy” when that enemy’s version of what is going on is something quite divorced

from reality. To illustrate this point, Sonia told me an appalling story. One of the doctors she works with ventured to the frontlines and spoke with Russian soldiers. The soldiers were very agitated and asked why Ukrainian forces were on Russian soil and why they were fighting against Russians? The doctor was astonished by the level of misinformation that was “reality” for these Russian soldiers, but his lengthy explanation of the reality of the situation fell on deaf and unbelieving ears. Then he noticed that one of the Russian soldiers had a fairly new smart phone. The doctor suggested that the soldier should check his location on the phone’s GPS function. The soldier did this and was shocked to discover that he and his comrades were on Ukrainian territory and even quite a distance from the border. He became agitated and told the doctor that he and those serving with him had been indoctrinated about their assignment and had been given substantial information about Ukrainian transgressions against Russia and Russians. The Russian soldiers, in fact, were given leaflets and video discs to distribute to the local population, blatant propaganda that depicted the brutality of Ukrainian people and included fabricated pictures of cannibalism by Ukrainian families and other shocking atrocities.

This is the reality of what goes on in Eastern Ukraine and exemplifies the kind of propaganda distributed by Russia not only to its own people but also in the West. This is the falsehood that Ukraine has to fight and that those of us who live in the West must confront and disprove.

A Ukrainian Military Chaplain's Christmas Story

From Euromaidan Press

In mid-January of this year, the UAV received an email communicate from the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, which included a couple of photos and a “read more” link to “full story” posted on the Euromaidan Press website. A brief note at the end of the email explained that the author of the story, Father Andriy Zelinskyi, is a graduate of the National University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The title of the story, “A Ukrainian military chaplain’s candid reflections on Christmas,” is followed by a brief note indicating that the author “was awarded the People’s Hero of Ukraine award.”

Clicking on the “read more” button, the reader pauses at the first photograph on the web page . . . a photo of serious, bespectacled man with a mustache and a short beard that hovers just above a glimpse of a white clerical collar. To the left of the photograph is a military medal . . . a golden Tryzub suspended from a blue and yellow square medallion. An introductory paragraph briefly notes that the recollections are from January 2015 and further notes that “little has changed” despite the “so-called ceasefire.” There is a somber reference to three soldiers (Ruslan Yurchyshyn, Sashko Koval, and Nazar Holyuk) who were killed “on New Year 2016.”

Father Zelinskyi’s (the surname on the Euromaidan site transliterates the name as Zelinskyy) account of serving as a chaplain at the front is paradoxical in tone—simultaneously spiritually uplifting and viscerally tragic. At the beginning of his story, he juxtaposes sacraments with the grim and terrifying realities of armed conflict: “hearing confessions in an attic” while hearing the “menacing rumble of grenade launchers . . . and a “steady volley of mortars.” He continues with a description of “distributing Holy Communion underground” most likely in a bunker “littered everywhere with heaps of rubble and metal.”

The story continues with reflections on his own fears and anxieties . . . whether it is safe to walk in an area that is threatened by snipers and grenades. There allusions to overloaded senses and intense personal stress that leads to wondering “where you should run for cover!” But the horrible and horrifying descriptions of conditions at the front give way to a calmer and more peaceful tone as Father Andriy turns to God and to prayer, a change he describes as “an unlikely and unnatural calm” that defies and rises above fear and fearful circumstances and allows him to notice that snow on tree branches looks like tinsel and that love “raises one to continue down the path which seems impossible to travel . . .”

This revelation is followed by another photograph. Titled “An outdoor prayer,” it shows the chaplain in clerical robes. Just behind him is a man dressed in battle fatigues. In the background is a low fence, and just behind the fence are military vehicles—trucks and what appears to be a small tank that is flying a Ukrainian flag. To the right of the chaplain

stand a group of men in uniform, listening attentively to what he is saying.

Just below the photograph, Father Andriy pronounces his “desire to be a beacon of divine hope in the chaos of this fierce destruction.” He cites passages from Corinthians and Philippians that underscore his “desire to be an authentic witness of true hope.” This is followed by a more prosaic and secular allusion to the Christmas season and Christmas traditions with the author noting that “Christmas can be celebrated with cold pickled beets and stale bread. . . when kutia and other dishes are unavailable” even when those celebrating are hearing “the noise of artillery instead of Christmas carols.” The imagery is extraordinary; the message equally so. This is Bethlehem . . . a place and time when he and the soldiers he serves with must “endure fear while retaining one’s humanity. . . pick ourselves up and keep going.”



Fr. Andriy Zelinskyi was awarded the People's Hero of Ukraine award



“An outdoor prayer”

Update on Nadiya Savchenko

Early in February we received a second communique from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America related to Nadiya Savchenko. The report opens with comments by Susan Ormiston, senior correspondent of CBC News, about Nadiya Savchenko's ongoing legal struggle. Ms. Ormiston informs readers of pending court proceedings "in Donetsk, Russia" [sic], a continuation of a protracted trial and numerous other hearings Savchenko has endured.

Additional information provided by CBC includes news from the hearing itself. The report cites excerpts from Savchenko's testimony and new information presented by her defense attorneys: evidence that the accused was "already in the hands of" pro-Russian rebels on the morning the two TV journalists she is accused of murdering were killed." Sadly, the report also cites comments from Savchenko's attorneys that reveal grave concern about the outcome of the trial. According to attorney Mark Feygin: "This Donetsk court . . . has no power to acquit Savchenko. . . This decision will be taken by the Kremlin, and the Kremlin will decide what is in their political interests and not for justice in their court of law and fairness . . ."

Although these comments cast a somber light on the proceedings and on the ultimate fate of Nadiya Savchenko, the CBC report also includes passages that praise the defen-

dant's "fiery spirit," her feisty protests against prosecutors, and other gestures of defiance that extend even to her wardrobe: "Throughout her various court hearings and trial appearances over the 18 months that she has been detained, Savchenko has often worn traditional Ukrainian blouses—she did so again on Monday." Saddened by Nadiya's seemingly hopeless situation, we cannot help remembering the words of another strong Ukrainian woman . . . the indomitable poet, Lesia Ukrainka, who gave us "Contra Spem Spero."



Nadiya Savchenko during hearing in Russia

A Letter from Prison A Portrait of Hope

By Tamara Stadnychenko Cornelison

The editors of the UAV Tribune recently received an email from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America that shared a brief commentary on Nadiya Savchenko, a heroine of Ukraine's ongoing struggle against Russia's relentless encroachment on Ukrainian territory. Accompanying the commentary was a link to a letter penned by Nadiya herself, a message to the people who have made it a sacred cause to publicize her plight and who have worked tirelessly to urge leaders of free nations to intervene on her behalf.

Nadiya writes about being kidnapped and brought to Russia by force; she mentions her ongoing hunger strike, the boredom of confinement in tight quarters (a 5 by 2.5 meter cell), the lethargy that makes it impossible to take interest in much of anything: "I pretty much just existed. There was a total vacuum in my mind and soul."

The tone of the letter remains somber as Nadiya describes how she has deteriorated physically; there are bouts of vomiting and visits from "generals, prosecutors, and small-time officials" and a "whole panel of doctors," all urging her to cease and desist from continuing her hunger strike. She then describes a bizarre conversation with a Russian psychiatrist, a conversation that leaves her shocked on one level and fiercely defiant on another, and it is here that the details converge into a grand finale, something akin to radiant joy that is revealed in a message to well-wishers who have worked on her behalf: "I hasten to inform you of my miraculous recovery...Three days of treatment and

people's letters – and I am very much healthy and ready to fight! You must've done a great job wishing me well in your letters, to get me back on my feet so fast. My sincere thanks to you, for the power of your words! All right, back to work!"

The letter is signed Nadiya Savchenko and dated January 15, 2016.

Link to letter: (<http://maidantranslations.com/2016/01/27/letter-from-nadiya-savchenko-via-rosuznik-freesavchenko/>).

Author's note: Nadiya Savchenko, a former officer of the Ukrainian army and a member of the volunteer Aidar Battalion, was captured in Ukraine and forcibly taken to Russia. Her captors have steadfastly refused to heed appeals for her release; she remains a prisoner, and is subjected to a manipulative legal system that employs tactics reminiscent of those created and implemented by the Cheka, the NKVD, and the KGB. Savchenko's extraordinary letter attests to her fortitude and commitment to Ukraine, her courage, her gratitude to those who have endeavored to secure her freedom, and her determination to continue her fight against an unjust and evil enemy that has imprisoned her body but has not broken her spirit. Reading her words, one shudders at the horrors she has endured; at the same time, the reader cannot deny a surge of pride and respect for this young woman who is living up to the name she was given at birth: The Ukrainian word "nadiya" means hope, and the missive penned by Ms. Savchenko reflects all that this word means. – tsc

News from the UAV Headquarters

SAVE THE DATES:

**OCTOBER 13, 14 & 15, 2016
FOR THE 69TH UAV NATIONAL CONVENTION**

by Peter Bencak, UAV Post 32 Commander

General John B. Turchin UAV Post 32 of Chicago, Illinois, will be hosting the upcoming 69th UAV Annual National Convention.

The UAV Post 32 Convention Committee, chaired by Bohdan Dudycz, has been hard at work. The hotel contract has been signed and dates are locked in with:

“FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON CHICAGO O’HARE
10249 West Irving Park Road
Schiller Park, IL 60175

Refer to **GROUP CODE:** UAV - Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. when reserving.

For Reservations:

phone: 847-671-6000 fax: 847-671-7552

email: joe@fourpointsohare.com

69th UAV National Convention Committee



L/R (seated): Senator Walter Dudycz (Retired), Post Commander Peter Bencak, and Bohdan Dudycz, Committee Chairman
Back row L/R: Adam Yurkiw, George Horbenko, Walter Nalywajko and John Steciw.

REMINDER FROM UAV NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER, JERRY KINDRACHUK:

Deadline for submitting UAV membership dues, Post dues and an updated Post membership Roster is April 15 of each year. Checks made payable to: UAV should be sent to:

Jerry Kindrachuk, UAV NFO
3535 Fox Run Drive
Allentown, PA 18103

All UAV Posts are required to file IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard). After filing, send a copy of IRS verification to UAV NEB Finance Officer or email to: uavfinance@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM UAV NATIONAL PR AND PUBLICATIONS OFFICER, BERNARD W. KRAWCZUK:

Thank you for sending in your articles and photographs for publication in the UAV Tribune.

Photographs should not be embedded in your Word document, send them separately, under separate cover. Photocopier prints are not acceptable. If sent by regular mail, your original photographs will be returned upon request.

Your change of address is very important to us. When you move send your notification ASAP via email: uav.tribune@verizon.net or mail to: **UAV Tribune**
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MESSAGE FROM THE UAV NATIONAL REGISTRY – UAV REGISTRATION PROJECT COORDINATOR ANNA KRAWCZUK, PNC.

Attention all UAV Post Commanders: As indicated in the UAV Constitution and By Laws, See Article V – Membership, Section 1, on page 9.

All new members must be registered before we add them to the UAV Master Mailing List.

UAV Registration Form is located:

Website: www.uavets.org

Email: contact Anna Krawczuk at uav.registration@verizon.net

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The 68th UAV Convention New Jersey Subcommittee:



L/R: Zenko Halkowycz (17), Jurij Jacus (30), Anna Krawczuk (30), NC Ihor W. Hron, UAV NJ Dept of State Commander Michael P Hrycak (17), Andrew Hadzewycz (17), Bernard Krawczuk (30) and Michael Fedirko (6).

NOVEMBER 11, 2015. FIRST COMMEMORATION AT THE UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT.



Metropolitan Antony (in the middle) with UAV NJ Dept of State members, clergy and other participants.



UAV NJ Department of State members

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| March 27, 2016 | Easter Sunday |
| April 15, 2016 | UAV dues deadline |
| May 1, 2016 | Easter Sunday in Ukraine |
| May 8, 2016 | Mother's Day |
| May 8, 2016 | St Thomas Sunday |
| May 30, 2016 | Memorial Day observance nationwide |
| June 14, 2016 | Flag Day |
| June 19, 2016 | Father's Day |
| July 4, 2016 | Independence Day observance nationwide |
| August 24, 2016 | Ukraine Independence Day |
| September 5, 2016 | Labor Day observance nationwide |
| October 3, 2016 | 1st Anniversary of UAV National Monument Dedication |
| October 13-15, 2016 | 69th UAV Annual National Convention |
| November 8, 2016 | Election Day nationwide |
| November 11, 2016 | Veterans Day observance nationwide |
| November 24, 2016 | Thanksgiving Day observance nationwide |
| December 25, 2016 | Christmas Day |
| January 1, 2017 | New Year's Day |
| January 7, 2017 | Christmas Day in Ukraine |

***U.S. ARMED FORCES:**

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| June 14, 1775 | *U.S. Army Founded |
| July 2, 1926 | *U.S. Army Air Corps established |
| August 4, 1790 | *U.S. Coast Guard established |
| September 18, 1947 | *U.S. Air Force established |
| October 13, 1775 | *U.S. Navy established |
| November 10, 1775 | *U.S. Marine Corps established |
| August 7, 1782 | Purple Heart Medal established (Per Veterans of Foreign Wars 2016 calendar) |



October 1, 2015. NC Hron presents UAV National Monument commemorative coin to Israel Resnick of Wertheimer-Liberty Monuments.

UAV 68th National Convention

by Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV National PR/Publication Officer and Anna Osinska Krawczuk, UAV PNC



L/R: President Oksana Koziak, Of UAV NLA, UAV NC Ihor W. Hron, UAV National Adjutant Roman Rondiak

The 68th UAV Annual National Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Somerset, in Somerset, N.J., from October 2-3, 2015. Prior to the convention, the UAV National Executive Board met on October 1, 2015, giving officers an opportunity to go over the final details of the historic and unprecedented event that would follow and fine-tune any last minute issues related to the dedication and blessing of the UAV National Monument at St. Andrew Cemetery of the UOC of the USA in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

The 68th UAV National Convention officially convened by UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron at 9:00 a.m. on October 2, 2015. UAV Chaplain Marian Bojsiuk offered an opening prayer, and UAV National Adjutant Roman Rondiak conducted the official roll call.

UAV National Ladies Auxiliary members, under the leadership of their president, Oksana Koziak, were in charge of registering the UAV delegates and reported that 42 delegates and 2 UAV members-at-large were present. After verification of the quorum by UAV Judge Advocate Mathew Koziak, PNC, the 68th UAV National Convention officially proceeded according to the prepared agenda. Per the UAV statute, all financial reports are subject to audit. After the review by the auditing committee members (George Mutlos, Roman Synychak, and Roman Maksimowich), George Mutlos reported their findings to the convention body for acceptance. All financial reports were duly accepted. National Commander Ihor W. Hron, and all UAV NEB Officers presented their annual reports and were accepted as well. This was followed by reports of the UAV Department of States Commanders: Ihor B. Rudko (CT), Peter Polnyj (NY) and Michael Hrycak (NJ). Thirteen UAV Posts were represented and gave their reports.

Matthew Koziak, co-chair of the UAV National Monument Committee, presented his report, and IPNC Brigadier Gen Leonid Kondratiuk, MC for the Dedication ceremony and the banquet, gave last minute instructions to those involved in the oversight and execution of related activities.

The following resolutions presented by Ihor W. Hron, Committee Chair, and signed by members: Roman Synychak (40), Bohdan Dudycz (32), Ihor Rudko (14), George Kryzaniwsky (40) and Peter Labiak (1) were accepted:

The 68th UAV National Convention resolved:

68-1: That the UAV create a letter for all UAV members to send to their respective legislators to raise the awareness of the plight of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians held in captivity by Russian supported forces.

68-2: The UAV NEB will create a standardized informational document to be used as a recruiting tool that highlights: goals, benefits, 69 years of accomplishments, location of Posts (MALs) and website.

68-3: The UAV will review existing uniform dress code and recommend changes and/or standardization info (including pictures) to be found on the UAV Website.

68-4: The UAV continue fundraising efforts to provide the perpetual care and maintenance of the UAV National Monument in South Bound Brook, N.J. This includes the formation of a new UAV National Monument Standard Committee to oversee the above.

After the adjournment of the 68th UAV National Convention by National Commander Hron, veterans were instructed to assemble for the march to the UAV National Monument dedication ceremony.



L/T: Bonnie Zetick, Oksana Koziak, UAV NLA president, Victoria Maksimowich, Myra Nalywajko, Roberta Wroblewski and Helen Drabyk



Getting ready for the UAV National Monument dedication

Continued from page 9

The banquet following the dedication was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center of the UOC of the USA in Somerset; N. J. Banquet MC Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk greeted more than 250 people present and introduced the guests at the head table. Posting of Colors followed. Ukrainian Youth Association Choir of Chicago conducted by Mr. Wolodymyr Popovycz sang the National Anthems of the U. S. and Ukraine. Prayer was offered by Metropolitan Antony.

The highlight of the event at the banquet was the performance of the SUM Choir from Chicago. Their repertoire, mostly in English, comprised familiar American patriotic and military music ending with God Bless America. It should be noted that all members of this choir were volunteers who came from Chicago especially for the Dedication of the UAV National Monument. We are extremely grateful to them.

The first speaker was UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron, who presented a brief history of the UAV. He spoke of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans who became American heroes: World War II Medal of Honor recipients Nicholas Minue, John Dudko and Nicholas Oresko; John Stark of Iwo Jima famous flag raising; Major Myron Diduryk who was killed in action in Vietnam, of We Were Soldiers Once and Young fame, just to name the few. The highest-ranking officer was US Marine General Samuel Jaskilka. US Army Major General Nicholas Krawciw, who was wounded in Vietnam, later played a major role in reforming the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and many others who served with honor and distinction. He ended with: "I say, there is something in the soul of all Ukrainian Americans that yearns for freedom and are willing to die for it. It is this heritage that has been passed down from generation to generation of Ukrainian Americans!" National Commander presented the Commanders Award for Distinguished Service to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA for his "support, guidance and leadership as the Honorary Chair of the UAV National Monument Committee since 2004...and a pivotal and invaluable force behind the success of this great undertaking."

Commander called upon UAV Post 32 Commander Peter Bencak to be recognized for recruiting the most new members. He also made an announcement that the 69th Annual National Convention will be held in Chicago, IL., in 2016, and will be hosted by the UAV Post 32.

National Commander was followed by remarks by Metropolitan Antony, then Metropolitan Stefan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Colonel Mykhailo Kyrylenko of Ukraine. Co-Chairman of the UAV National Monument Committee, Mathew Koziak, PNC., and president Oksana Koziak of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, who presented \$1,000.00 check for the UAV National Monument. Personal observations of a Ukrainian American Soldier was given by Lt. Col. Michael Hrycak, USA (Ret) and Bishop Daniel, former US Army Chaplain and a member of the UAV. Closing prayer was recited by Metropolitan Stefan and closing remarks by MC Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk.

Thus ended this memorable 68th UAV Convention, Dedication of the UAV National Monument and the 68th Convention banquet.

Music by Slavko entertained those present.



Ukrainian Youth Association Choir of Chicago, Wolodymyr Popovycz conducting.



L/R: MC Br Gen Leonid Kondratiuk, Metropolitan Antony, and NC Ihor W. Hron



UAV Past National Commanders
L/R: NC Ihor W. Hron, Mathew Koziak, Edward Zetick, Leonid Kondratiuk, Anna Krawczuk, and Roman Rakowsky

UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION

By Anna Osinska Krawczuk

The UAV National Monument dedication, unveiling and blessing took place on October 3, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., under cloudy skies, with raindrops blessing the event. Master of Ceremony Br. General Leonid E. Kondratiuk, UAV IPNC, welcomed all the guests and veterans who had braved the weather to witness this moving ceremony. He eloquently presented a brief history of Ukrainians who had fought and died for the United States during the past two centuries. MC Br Gen Kondratiuk underscored that early arrivals (prior to 1991) to the USA were identified and documented as Russians and not Ukrainians, and that the UAV is striving to correct this misidentification through UAV National Registry under the direction of PNC Anna Krawczuk.

Dedication of the National Monument of the Ukrainian American Veterans

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Metropolitan Stefan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the USA, with Bishop Daniel and other clergy, concelebrated the Molebem in front of the monument. Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary chanted the responses.

The Presentation of Colors was executed by the US Air Force Color Guard from McGuire Air Force Base, N. J., and was followed by the national anthems of the United States and Ukraine, beautifully rendered by the Ukrainian Youth Association Choir of the Mykola Pawlushkova Branch of Chicago.

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church USA offered an opening prayer, Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel of the UOC of the USA offered additional remarks.

The first featured speaker was Mr. Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of New Jersey.



L/R: NC Ihor W. Hron, Colonel Mykhailo Kyrylenko of Ukraine, MC and IPNC Leonid Kondratiuk

The next speaker was Colonel Mykhailo Kyrylenko, Military Representative of MOD Ukraine to the Mission of Ukraine to the UN, who attended as an official representative of Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations, Y. Sergeev. Additional speakers included UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron, UAV National Monument Committee Co-chair Mathew Koziak, PNC.; UAV National Auxiliary President Oksana Koziak; National Executive Board member Zoriana Haftkowycz of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., represented UNWLA, Inc., president Marianna Zajac; and Representative of Hunderdon County, N.J.; among others.

The Blessing of the UAV National Monument

NC Ihor W. Hron, PNC Mathew Koziak, PNC Anna Osinska Krawczuk, and UAV NLA president Oksana Koziak participated in the official unveiling of the monument.

The official blessing by Bishop Daniel, former US Army Chaplain and UAV member-at-large, followed. The choir sang America the Beautiful, that was followed by a solemn and sorrowful rendition of Taps.

Metropolitan Antony offered the closing prayer. In his brief closing speech, MC Kondratiuk thanked everyone for braving the weather and coming to this historic dedication of the UAV National Monument, which honors all Ukrainian American veterans who have ever served in the United States Armed Forces, by this inscription carved in stone:

**DEDICATED TO ALL UKRAINIAN
AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE SERVED IN
THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**



Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of UCC of USA, Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA and Bishop Daniel.

OCTOBER 3, 2015, UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION



USAF Color Guard of McGuire Air Force Base in N. J.



SUM Choir of Chicago



We thank Bishop Daniel of UOC of the USA for the photographs

Anthony Bilyj UAV Post 1 – Greater Philadelphia

by John R. Hill, Post Adjutant

On October 2-3, 2015, Somerset, New Jersey. Delegates and members of the UAV Post 1 attended the 68th UAV National Convention and the banquet. They were honored to witness the Unveiling, Blessing and Dedication ceremonies of the UAV National Monument in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. The UAV National Monument is a sight to behold!

November 14, 2015, Jenkintown, PA. As in prior years, the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) was the place where UAV Post 1 members gathered to celebrate the Veterans Day and honor all the American veterans who sacrificed parts of their lives in defense of our country and our ideals.

The UECC and the Ukrainian Self Reliance FCU of Philadelphia, PA., hosted the luncheon. Students of the Heritage School performed in Ukrainian dress; they spoke and sang in Ukrainian. It was a moving event and UAV Post 1 members are grateful to be thus remembered and honored in their own community each year.



UAV Post 1 members



Veteran's Day - Children from the Heritage School



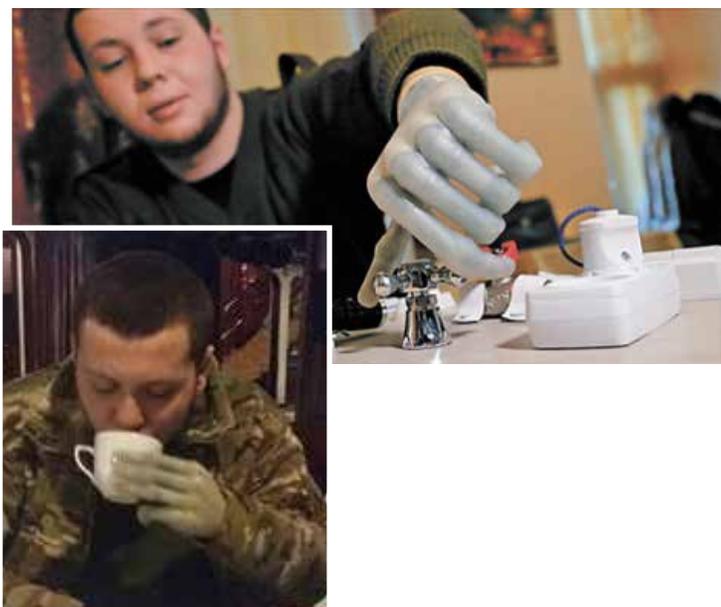
L/R: Myron Soltys, Post Treasurer, Lt Cmdr John Midzak, Father Paul Makar, Post Chaplain, Post Commander Edward Zetick, Mrs. Myroslawa Hill and John Hill, Post Adjutant

On December 29, 2015, Roman Dzivinsky received his bio-mechanical hand! Thanks to all of our donors.

Message from Roman: Wounded Warrior of Maidan, Kyiv, Ukraine.

“Greetings to everyone, friends! I want to thank everyone for the present I received with the New Year. This is the best that could be. I received a new prosthesis which I have already used to write, eat, do different work at home, and even drive an automobile! I am very deeply grateful to all who contributed to my treatment and prosthetic!!!

Thank you for the prosthetic, which was paid for by the Ukrainian-American community of the United States through the efforts of the “United Ukrainian American Relief Committee” (UUARC or ZUADK) and thank you to the official representative of Touch Bionics.



UAV Post 17 – Passaic, NJ

by Zenko Halkowycz, Post Adjutant

UAV Post 17 of Passaic, New Jersey celebrated Veterans Day in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Sunday November 15, 2015. The celebrations focused on a commemoration of Ukrainian American veterans and the diaspora institutions that have played a role in shaping and supporting those Ukrainian Americans who served in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

There were three Ukrainian Catholic Churches of the Byzantine Rite in Jersey City, during the period 1941 to 1954. Many Ukrainian Americans who volunteered or were drafted into military service at this time were parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church during WWII. Nineteen of these young Ukrainian American servicemen died in various theaters of operations between 1941 and 1945; at some point, the church commissioned and installed a bronze plaque inscribed with the names of these brave soldiers. For quite some time the parishioners honored these men, but as elderly parishioners began to die, the memory faded. Over the next 34 years, the parish moved into a new church building; the brass plaque was relegated to some inconspicuous corner of the new church, and the servicemen it commemorated were forgotten.

During the summer of 2015, I found the plaque and asked our parish priest, Father Wasyl Putera, why it had been moved to such an obscure location and neglected since then. His reply was simple: “When we moved into the new church building, someone placed this plaque in this corner.”

In early October I again spoke with Father Putera, asking if we as a parish could honor the servicemen who were killed in action during World War II and whose names were inscribed on this plaque. Father Putera agreed to this, and I asked my Post 17 commander and vice commander as well some good buddies to help plan the commemorative ceremony. Once plans were made, we invited the local branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) to participate, and the

senior members of the organization agreed. UAV Post 17 Commander James Fedorko decided that a Post color guard should also take part in the ceremony.

Our ceremony began at 12:15 on Sunday November 15, 2015. Walter Kovbasniuk posted the colors, “SUM” members marched in with a wreath, and Father Wasyl explained to the parishioners the purpose of the ceremonial commemoration and why we were doing it. As the Memorial Service (Panakhyda) progressed, the names of the servicemen being honored were read by Donna Bartkiw, a young “SUM” member:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| STEPAN BAGGAR | STEPAN KOSTIW |
| JOHN BASEWICZ | JOHN KOWALCHYK |
| PETER BESINK | THEODOR KOWTKO |
| STANLEY BULBACK | PAUL KOZAR |
| MICHAEL CINORCHIN | THEODOR MICNOWSKY |
| WILLIAM DMYTRIW | EDWARD MOCIO |
| STANLEY GALETA | NICHOLAS SAMODEL |
| STEPAN GLUHAN | ANDREW SOZANSKI |
| JULIAN HNIDOWYCZ | MICHAEL SYDOR |
| JOHN KACHMARSKI | |

As the names were read, David Demianicz rang the bell after each name and following Walter Kovbasniuk’s command, Roxolana Hreb placed the wreath by the plaque. At the end of the ceremony, UAV Post 17 member Walter Kovbasniuk gave a short speech about UAV, its purpose, and its activities. In closing, I would particularly like to extend my gratitude to the young members of “SUM” who took such an active role in this ceremony and who solemnly honored the Ukrainian American servicemen whose names were listed on that nearly forgotten bronze plaque.

After this event, Zenko Halkowycz, Walter Kovbasniuk and Walter Stepaniak drove SUM participants to St. Andrew



UAV Post 17 members waiting for the service to begin



November 15, 2015, Commemorative Ceremony

Continued from page 14

Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, where another wreath was placed at the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument. After the Memorial Service by Father Jurij Siwko, Zirka Kovbasniuk presented a brief history about this monument and why Jersey City SUM members should honor all Ukrainian American veterans who served with honor in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

In closing, I would like to thank UAV Post 17 members Andrij Hadzewycz, James Fedorko, Walter Stepaniak, and Walter Kovbasniuk for their participation in these moving ceremonies. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the work of our local Ukrainian American Youth Association "SUM" branch and the support of their leadership of Jersey City: president Oksana Bartkiw, councilors Olena Tytko Halkowycz, Jessica Demianicz, and Zirka Kovbasniuk

UAV Post 17 leadership and members have decided to make these commemorative ceremonies an annual event that will take place on each forthcoming Veterans Day on November 11.



November 15, 2015, at the UAV National Monument

UAV Post 24 - Cleveland, Ohio

by Bohdan Samokyszyn, Post Commander



August 22, 2015. Ukrainian Independence Day parade in the Ukrainian Village



August 22, 2015. Ukrainian Independence Day parade



December 7, 2015, Presentation of an appreciation plaque to Dennis Lazuta, Post 24 loyal supporter; L/R: G. Galandiuk, M. Kazymyiew, R. Rakowsky, B. Samokyszyn, J. Shutovich



Veterans Day - November 11, 2015, UAV Post 24 members in Arlington National Cemetery, VA



November 9, 2015, at Flight 93 National Memorial, Stoystown, PA
L/R: Slafko Terlecky, Albert A. Radka, Bohdan Samokyszyn, Nick Bartkiw, Roman Rakowsky.

UAV Post 28 - Akron, Ohio

by Roman Kostiuk, PVC

WE HONOR AND REMEMBER



Paul John Hlynsky
1954-2015

Paul John Hlynsky was born on July 1, 1954, in Canton, Ohio, to Ukrainian immigrants Iwan and Wira Hlynsky, who arrived in the United States of America in 1951, following the turmoil of World War II. Paul grew up and was educated in Ohio. From December 11, 1977, until July 1, 1989, he served in the US Army, reaching the rank of Major. He then joined the Army National Guard of Nebraska and served until April 17, 1992.

Major Paul J. Hlynsky retired from the US Army Reserve on April 28, 1997, after serving many leadership positions. Among his many military decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendations Medals w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, an Army Achievement Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, an Overseas Service Ribbon, and a Parachute Badge.

Hlynsky joined UAV Post 28 (Akron, Ohio) in 1992 and soon after became Post Commander, a position he held until his passing. In 2006 he was elected Vice Commander of the UAV National Executive Board. He was also a member of the local American Legion post. In civilian life, he was a police officer and served as president of the Akron Lodge 7 Fraternal Order of Police for 18 years, thus becoming the longest sitting president of the organization.

Paul dedicated his life to serving people, both in the US Army and with the Akron Police Force. On September 30, 2015, Hon. Tom Ryan of Ohio honored him for his service to country and community in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Major Paul J. Hlynsky, USA (Ret) passed on September 23, 2015, and was laid to final rest at Calvary Cemetery in Canton, Ohio, on September 28, 2015. He is survived by his sister, Irene Harland, and her family and by his fiancée Olya Tymciurak. He is also mourned and will be greatly missed by his police brethren of Akron Lodge 7 Fraternal Order of Police and his fellow veterans of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.,

Memory Eternal Vichnaia Pamjat`

68th UAV National Convention Participants



Bernard Krawczuk with WWII USA veterans of UAV Post 6:
PC Michael Fedirko and Walter Bodnar.

UAV delegates deliberating



Major Myron Diduryk UAV Post 30 – Freehold, New Jersey

by Anna Osinska Krawczuk, Post Adjutant

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR MEMBER

It was between these two commemorative events that members of UAV Post 30 lost one of their colleagues, Eugene Brozyna, who passed from this life on October 25, 2015. UAV Post 30 members attended the funeral services and ceremoniously presented the final salute to their fellow veteran at St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toms River, New Jersey. Eugene was laid to rest at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Elkins Park, Pa. He is survived by his wife Zenia (to whom he was married for 43 years), their sons Alexander and Roman with their families, and his brother Nicholas with wife Olia.

Eugene was born in Altshausen, Germany, on July 19, 1945, to Ukrainian parents Michael and Parania Bojczuk. The Brozyna family immigrated to the United States of America in 1949, settling in the lower east side of New York City where they worshipped at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church. Eugene attended St. George's school. He later attended Cardinal Hayes High School, graduating in 1963, and then enrolled in Manhattan College where he earned a Bachelor of Business Arts degree in 1967. Soon after he was drafted into the US Army and deployed to Vietnam.

Sp4 Eugene Brozyna served on active duty in the US Army from May 8, 1968 to May 5, 1970. Following his

service in Vietnam, he was transferred to the US Army Reserve and completed his military obligation on May 6, 1974. His medals and awards included a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, and Army Commendation w/2 bars. As an honorably discharged Vietnam veteran, Eugene became a member of UAV Post 301 in Yonkers, N.Y., then joined UAV Post 17 in Passaic, N. J. In 2009 he transferred to UAV Post 30 in Freehold, N. J., whose patron Major Myron Didutyk was KIA in Vietnam on April 24, 1970.

Eugene served as UAV Post 30 Finance Officer. He also was very active in the Ukrainian Scouting Organization Plast, and it was in Plast that he met his soul mate Zenia Kowalczyk. They were married in May 1972 and were blessed with two sons, Alexander and Roman. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

As a civilian, Eugene was employed by a succession of telephone companies for 30 years, starting with New York Bell Telephone and ending with Verizon. In 2006 he and his wife Zenia relocated to Ocean County, New Jersey, where they joined and became very active member of St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toms River, New Jersey.

He will be greatly missed by his fellow veterans!

Вічна пам'ять!

Memory Eternal

UAV Post 30 was well represented at the 68th UAV National Convention and the dedication of the UAV National Monument. Jurij Jacus was the official delegate to the convention, and Anna Krawczuk, PNC, and Bernard W. Krawczuk, UAV Nat PR Officer, who are coeditors of the UAV Tribune, reported on their activities as UAV National Executive Board officers. Anna Krawczuk also participated in the unveiling ceremony of the UAV National Monument during the dedication ceremonies held on October 3, 2015. She also attended the dedication of the Holodomor Monument on November 7, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Photo by: M. Onysia Jacus



Oct 3, 2015, UAV National Monument Unveiling ceremony : Bishop Daniel, Anna Krawczuk, Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Stefan.



Jurij Jacus reporting at the UAV 68th National Convention. seated I/R: UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron and UAV National Adjutant Roman Rondiak.

Sp4 Nikolaus Zozula UAV Post 31 - Boston, MA

Veterans Day in West Roxbury, Massachusetts

Speech delivered by Michael Michajliw at “Wall of Honor” Dedication Program November 2015 at Deutsches Altenheim.



Walter Michajliw, UAV NEB Past Vice Commander

Good morning!

My name is Walter Michajliw. The name “MICHAJLIW” is of Ukrainian ancestry. I have been a resident of West Roxbury since June 25, 1966, my wedding anniversary date. I am 75 years young, a retired structural designer who has worked for several engineering firms in the greater Boston area.

Veterans Day is an official United States federal holiday, which is observed annually on November 11, honoring individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Those individuals are also known as “Veterans.” Veterans Day coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world. It also marks the anniversary of the end of World War I (major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918, when the armistice with Germany went into effect). The United States also originally observed Armistice Day; this observation evolved into the current Veterans Day holiday in 1954.

What is a veteran? A “veteran”—whether active duty, discharged, or reserve—is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount of “up to and including his life.” That is HONOR, and sadly, there are way too many people in this country today who no longer understand that fact.

Standing here in front of you, I am such a veteran, one who served in the United States Air Force, Strategic Air Command (often called “SAC”) under the command of none other than General Curtis E. LeMay. My time in the US Air Force was from September 1960 through June 1965. I performed

duties as part of what was then called “Air Police” but is now better known as “Security Forces.” As the name implies, I dealt with security and law enforcement at various air bases, namely at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma; Torrejon Air Base, Spain; Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan; and finally, Tansonnhut Air Base, Saigon, South Vietnam.

It was a privilege and honor for me to serve under three Commanders-in-Chief: President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President John F. Kennedy, and President Lyndon B. Johnson, who took office after President Kennedy’s assassination on November 22, 1963. I also served during the “Cold War,” the Cuban Missile Crisis, and, of course, the Vietnam Conflict.

How did it come about, my becoming a veteran of the United States Armed Forces? I’ll begin at the beginning. I was born in a little village of roughly 500 inhabitants, in northern France. Called Cattenieres, it was located in farming country, in the North Pas De-Calais region, south of the Belgian Border. The date of my birth was July 19, 1940, and the village was then under German occupation. In 1939, able-bodied villagers had been mobilized to fight the aggressive German forces that had started invading French territory.

On the day of my birth, my mother was working in the fields and had to rush home, riding her bicycle, to bring me into the world, assisted by the local midwife. After escaping from a German prison camp in France, my father made his way home and laid eyes on me for the first time when I was two years old.

On June 6, 1944, on the day the French called “Debarcation Day,” Allied Forces landed on several beaches in Normandy. That was the day that changed the history of the world, a day of monumental significance that will never, ever be duplicated.

I vaguely remember sitting with my parents on the front door step of our little one-room house in Cattenieres during the summer of 1944, watching American Army convoys, trucks and jeeps with that famous white star and American flags, carrying soldiers and weapons and hauling artillery equipment. Those American soldiers were handing out whatever “goodies” they could barely spare to the children on the street, waving at us on their way to whatever might confront them further down the line. The village history, which I read later, recorded that those soldiers were part of General Patton’s 3rd Army Division.

My parents and I immigrated to the United States, arriving at the port of New York City on January 26, 1956. We initially settled in Chester, Pennsylvania. At the “ripe old age” of 15½ and coming fresh off the boat, the only language I knew was French. I quickly learned the English language in high school, with the help of students who were studying French. After I graduated from Chester High School, our family relocated to Boston in June 1959. I have been a Boston resident ever since, first settling in Jamaica Plain, then moving to Roxbury (Egleston Square), and finally to Dorchester.

Continued from page 18

Knowing the history of WWII in the European Theater, I felt obligated to repay, in one form or another, the United States military for having liberated the country of my birth. I felt that I had to bring back to the United States, through me, the spirit and soul of some American soldier/paratrooper who was killed in action either during or after the landing on the beaches of Normandy and had never been buried in one of the many American military cemeteries in France. We should never forget that the U.S. Army Corps suffered thousands of casualties during bombing missions and air battles.

You might wonder why I chose to serve in the U.S. Air Force. My answer comes from my own past. I remember being around 9 or 10 years young, playing with the only toy that I owned, a bomber made of clear plastic that had a single marking on its tail—an American flag. That flag had a huge impact on me. So did sitting on the stool in our town's barber shop. The stool had been retrieved by town locals from the cockpit of a downed U.S. fighter aircraft. The fighter pilot, who survived the crash, was taken from the wreckage by local townspeople and hidden from the Germans to prevent his capture. For some reason, sitting on that pilot's seat in the barber shop felt odd, but unforgettable. And it was because of this and that little plastic aircraft with an American flag on its tail that I decided that the USAF was the branch of the US Armed Forces for me to perform my military service.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, state and local dignitaries, and my fellow veterans, is the story of how I became a veteran of the US Armed Forces. Please be aware that I was not an American citizen when I signed on that famous dotted line to join the USAF. I became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America shortly after my discharge from the USAF in 1965.

I would like to thank all the men and women in the US Armed Forces for their service and sacrifice. A special thank you to those brave soldiers, my heroes, who had their boots on the ground and who survived the ordeal and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to liberate the country of my birth. May their souls rest in peace!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Editor's note: Walter Michajliw is a member of UAV Post 31. His speech was delivered before a large audience commemorating local veterans. The speech and the event were the subject of an article published online in NEWS NOW. State chairman for the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, an Iraq War veteran, state Sen. Mike Rush also spoke. As did USAF veteran Bryan Bishop, the deputy commissioner of Boston's Veterans' Services. VFW Post 2902 gave the Honor Guard Salute.



City of Boston Mayor Martin J Walsh at the podium



November 11, 2015. UAV Post 31 members



Special guests at Deutsches Altenheim event

CPL. Roman G. Lazar Post 40 - North Port, Florida

by Bohdan P. Hirniak, Public Relations Officer

Annual Luncheon and Fundraiser November 12, 2015

As in years past, UAV Post 40 again held its annual luncheon and fundraiser around the time of Veterans Day. The luncheon was held at the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club in North Port, Florida, and was an unqualified success with more than one hundred people attending. In attendance were not only Post members and their spouses, but also members of various Ukrainian American organizations, clergy from both Ukrainian churches serving the North Port area, and members of local governmental agencies.

The luncheon commenced with the posting of colors by the Post 40 Color Guard headed by Marian Bojsiuk; the national anthems of both the United States and Ukraine were sung by those who had gathered for the event. The invocation and blessing were offered by Post 40's own Rev. Roman Badiak, (USMC Veteran), who is also pastor of the Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. Hosting the luncheon was Post Commander Col. Roman Rondiak, USA(Ret.) who thanked those gathered for their continuing support.

Post 40 was honored to host two members of the Ukrainian Army, Col. Serhii Samborskyi and Col. Dmytro Hrihoriev at the luncheon. Both men are currently members of the liaison team at the HQ of U.S. Central Command at MacDill U.S. Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Col. Samborskyi spoke (in English and in Ukrainian) about the current situation in Ukraine and what he thought the future may hold. His views about the current situation were

pragmatic, but he also expressed optimism about the eventual outcome. His views on Ukraine's young people and the role they will play in Ukraine's future were positive and encouraging.

UAV National Commander Ihor Hron also spoke at the luncheon, presenting a brief but positive overview of the most recent 68th Annual National Convention held in New Jersey. He also spoke about the successful erection and dedication of the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Post Commander Rondiak presented an award to the immediate past post commander Eugene Tomashosky for his dedication and contributions to Post 40 and the UAV National Commander Hron then presented a new UAV Coin Box to UAV National Chaplain Marian Bojsiuk, thanking him and to UAV New York State Commander Peter Polnyj for their excellent services and efforts on behalf of the UAV.

Once the formal aspects of the luncheon were addressed, attendees were invited to participate in a 50/50 lottery conducted by George Mutlos and Gene Tomashosky. Ihor Hron, who had the lucky winning ticket, donated his winnings to the UAV Post 40 treasury.

The luncheon ended on a positive note, both financially and spiritually, and provided an opportunity for members and supporters to gather in a social environment and share their thoughts and hopes about the future of the United States and Ukraine. All left for their respective homes with a rejuvenated sense of optimism.



L/R: Post 40 Commander Roman Rondiak, special guests - members of the Ukrainian Army, Col. Serhii Samborskyi and Col. Dmytro Hrihoriev, and UAV National Commander Ihor W. Hron.



National Commander Ihor W. Hron and Nation Adjutant Roman Rondiak officiating. NJ State Commander Michael P. Hrycak standing in front of the podium at the 68th UAV National Convention

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L/R: First Lady of Ukraine Maryna Poroshenko, UAV CG Jerry Kindrachuk, Ukraine's Ambassador to USA Valeriy Chaly and Melanne Verveer in the back.

Chairman Michael Sawkiw, Jr. opening the ceremony.



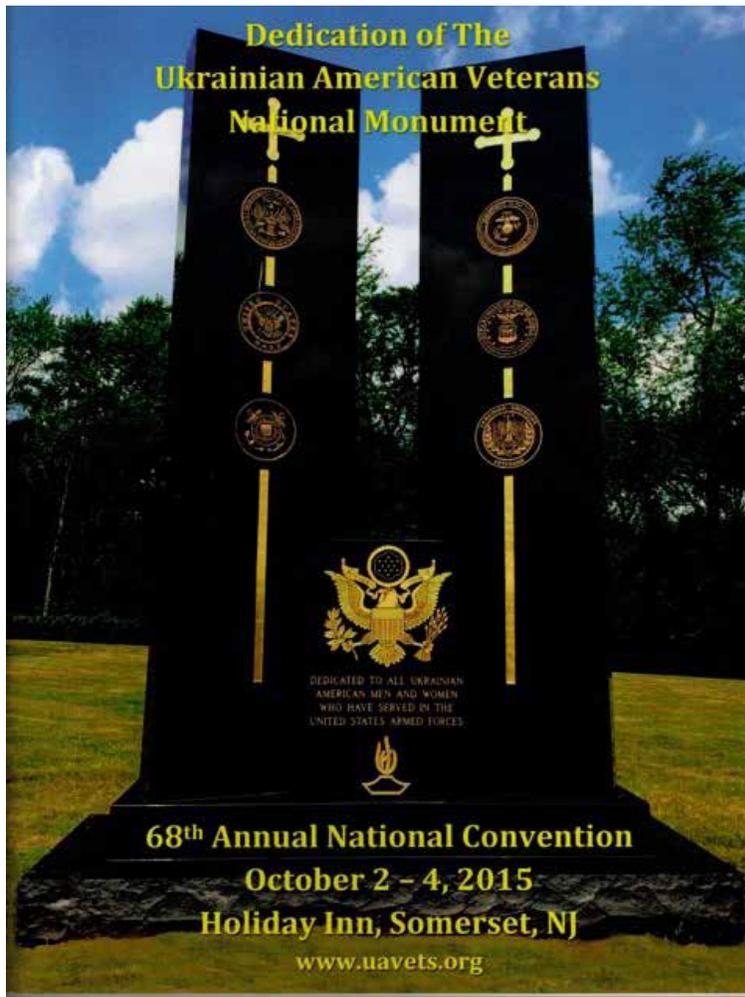
UAV members at the Holodomor Monument: L/R: Ihor D. Kunynskiy, Anna Krawczuk, Mathew Koziak and others.



UAV Color Guard: L/R: M. Hrycak, J. Kindrachuk, V. Litkewycz, O. Balaziuk, M. Koziak and I. W. Hron



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HOLODOMOR 1932-1933 MONUMENT DEDICATION.



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HOLODOMOR 1932-1933 MONUMENT DEDICATION



Photo by: Myron Krawozuk